

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

February 22, 2000 LB 298, 1135

Committee. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 10th of this year, referred to the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File with committee amendments attached.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Schimek, you're recognized to open on LB 1135.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Before I begin today, I would like to thank the committee for their hard work on this bill and also the staff in my office. Everybody in my office I think worked on this bill at one time or another and it was...it was a huge undertaking, believe me. I would like to trace a little of the history of this bill for you and tell you how we arrived at the conclusions that we did. The bill actually calls for the elimination, I believe it's 19...of 19 boards and commissions, but let me take you back a little bit to 1994 when the Government Committee office decided that there needed to be some kind of information available to policymakers about the variety of boards and commissions that we have. And, in 1994, we sent out surveys to all the known boards and commissions at that time and got response back and published those responses for the Legislature and for anybody else who was interested, and we found that it was very useful. In 1998, I was concerned because the information was getting old and I thought that we needed to update it, so my staff at that time, which wasn't Government Committee staff, began working to send out surveys again to try to update the information we had on all the boards and commissions. We did do that and we did publish those results, but meanwhile we came to you last year with a bill, it was LB 298 I believe, that called for a Government Committee review of all the boards and commissions and with some authority in there to recommend back to the Legislature "sunsetting" boards and commissions that were no longer functional or that could be blended in with...with a function of another board or commission or agency. So we did take a look at all the surveys that we had gotten back. The committee chose a number of those entities, I think there were about 30 of them that we chose that we thought were questionable that probably might not need to be in existence any longer, but during the course of this we also discovered that there were 118 boards and commissions which we